IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (Previously Presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (Previously Presented), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-9, 11, 13-18, 20-24 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A product information supply method ~~for supplying a terminal of a user who desires to purchase a product via a network with information about a related product that could be bought together with said product, said method~~ comprising:

receiving combination information about combinations of products from a terminal of a<u>n</u> ~~person~~<u>individual</u> who has bought the ~~products~~<u>combination of products</u>~~,~~<u>;</u> ~~and~~

making registration of said combination information ~~with~~<u>in</u> a database, so that the combination information can be accumulated; ~~and~~

searching the database in response to ~~inquiry information~~<u>inquiries</u> about the combination information ~~from the terminal of the user to supply the terminal of the user with corresponding combination information~~ extracted from the database ~~on the basis of the inquiry information~~<u>; and</u>

<u>allowing a plurality of consumers to each purchase a same combination of products via a network, as that of the combination of products purchased by the individual.</u>

2. (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein <u>each of</u> said <u>inquiries correspond to</u> ~~inquiry information is~~<u>a</u> choice signal that indicates a product chosen at ~~the~~<u>a</u> terminal of ~~the user~~<u>a consumer</u> in order to specify a candidate for purchase or place a buy order.

3. (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~inquiry information~~<u>inquiries</u> ~~is~~<u>are</u> sent from ~~the~~terminal<u>s</u> of ~~the user~~<u>said consumers</u>.

4. (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~inquiry information~~<u>inquiries</u> ~~is~~<u>are</u> sent by the terminal<u>s</u> of the ~~user~~<u>consumers</u> via a Web server that provides an online shop that sells the products<u> included in the combination</u>

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of products.

5.   (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a step of~~ storing information concerning a number of times a purchase of the ~~related~~ same combination of products have been made on the basis of the corresponding combination information supplied to ~~the~~ a terminal of ~~the user~~ a consumer.

6.   (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein:

the corresponding combination information includes information about a link to a Web page that introduces the ~~related products into users~~ combination of products to the consumers; and

the method further comprises storing information concerning a number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

7.   (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 5, further comprising providing the ~~person~~ individual who has made registration of the combination information with a reward based on the number of times a purchase of the ~~related products~~ same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination information registered by said ~~person~~ individual, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

8.   (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 5, further comprising determining priority of supplying ~~the user~~ a consumer with the combination information on the basis of the number of times a purchase of the ~~related products~~ same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination information, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the corresponding combination information.

9.   (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 5, further comprising ~~a step of~~ providing, from a seller who sells the ~~related products~~ combination of products or an operating person who operates the Web site, a managing person who manages the database, with a reward based on the number of times a purchase of the ~~related products~~ same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination

information registered by said ~~person~~_individual_, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

10.   (Original) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein the combination information stored in the database is registered by an e-mail or a Web page for making registration.

11.   (Currently Amended) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising:

confirming that a buy order of ~~a related product~~_the same combination of products_ is placed on the basis of the corresponding combination information extracted from the database and sent to the ~~user~~_consumer_; and

sending an e-mail to the ~~user~~ terminal _of the consumer_ to ask the ~~user~~_consumer_ to make registration of combination information to be stored in the database after a predetermined period lapses from confirmation.

12.   (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising producing marketing information from the combination information, the marketing information being sold to another person or organization.

13.   (Currently Amended) A product information acquiring method ~~for acquiring information about a related product that could be bought together with a product bought by a user who operates a terminal via a network, said method~~ comprising:

acquiring information about combination of products as that of the combination of products purchased by a person;

sending inquiry information about combination information concerning ~~a~~_the_ combination of ~~the~~ product_s_ ~~and the related product~~ to a server that manages a database storing the combination information that has been registered by ~~a~~_the_ person who has ~~bought~~_purchased_ the ~~product~~_combination of products_; and

outputting, from the server, corresponding combination information extracted from the database by search of the database based on the inquiry information.

14.   (Currently Amended) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, wherein said inquiry information is sent as a choice signal which indicates that ~~a~~_the_

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product same combination of products was chosen at the a terminal of the usera consumer in order to specify a candidate for purchase or place a buy order.

15.   (Currently Amended) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, wherein said inquiry information is sent by the terminal of the user consumer via a Web server that provides an online shop that sells the products; and

said combination information is received by the terminal of the user consumer via a Web server that provides an online shop that sells the products

16.   (Currently Amended) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, further comprising:

sending to the server a signal that places a buy order of a product on the basis of the combination information extracted from the database;

receiving, from the server, an e-mail that asks to make registration of combination information about said product combination of products with the database after a predetermined period elapses from placement of the buy order; and

sending combination information including given items back to the server by an e-mail or access to a Web page for making registration of combination information described in said e-mail that asks to make registration.

17.   (Currently Amended) The product information acquiring method according to claim 13, further comprising causing rewarding the user person to receive a reward based on a number of times a purchase of a related productthe same combination of products has been made or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces related productsthe same combination of products, when reference is made by another user consumer to the combination information that has been registered by said user person that purchases at least one of the related products or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

18.   (Currently Amended) A product information registering method for making registration of information about a related product that could be bought together with a product bought by a user who operates a terminal via a network, said method comprising:

registering information corresponding to a combination of products to be bought together by a user who operates a terminal via a network;

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entering given items of combination information <u>corresponding to the combination of products</u> ~~by~~ <u>via</u> the terminal of the user by an e-mail or access to a Web page for making registration of <u>the</u> combination information;

sending the given items of combination information to a server that manages a database for storing the combination information; and

~~causing~~ <u>rewarding</u> the user ~~to receive a reward~~ based on a number of times a purchase of a <u>same</u> ~~related product~~<u>combination of products</u> has been made or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces ~~related products~~<u>the combination of products</u>, when reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said user ~~that purchases at least one of the related products~~ or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a program for supplying a ~~user~~ <u>plurality of users</u> who operate~~s~~ ~~a~~ terminal<u>s</u> to purchase a ~~product~~ <u>combination of products</u> via a network, said program causing a computer to perform:

storing combination information about ~~a product and a related product~~<u>the combination of products</u> that could be bought together ~~with said product~~;

registering combination information that has been supplied by a person who has bought the product;

searching the database on the basis of ~~inquiry information~~<u>inquiries</u> about the combination <u>of products</u> from the user<u>s</u> and sending corresponding combination information extracted therefrom to the terminal<u>s</u> of the user<u>s as requested</u>; and

storing a value indicating a reward based on a number of times a purchase of ~~a related product~~<u>the same combination of products</u> has been made <u>by the users</u> or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces ~~related products~~<u>the combination of products</u>, when reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said ~~user~~ <u>person</u> ~~that purchases at least one of the related products~~ or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

21.   (Currently Amended) A product information supply apparatus ~~supplying a user who operates a terminal to purchase a product via a network, said apparatus comprises~~<u>comprising</u>:

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a database storing combination information about ~~a product and a related product that could be bought together with said product~~a combination of products purchased by a person;

registration making unit for making registration of combination information that has been supplied by ~~a~~ the person who has bought the ~~product~~combination of products;

information outputting unit for searching the database on the basis of inquiry information about the combination of the products from ~~the~~ users and sending corresponding combination information extracted therefrom to ~~the~~ terminals of the users; and

reward storing unit for storing a value indicating a reward based on a number of times a purchase of ~~a related product has been~~a same combination of products has been made by the users or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces ~~related products~~the combination of products, when reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said ~~user~~person ~~that purchases at least one of the related products~~or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a registration unit to register a product combination supplied by a person who has bought the product combination via a network;

an output unit to search for the registered product combination based on inquiries by users; and

a reward unit to store a value indicating a reward for the person, based on a number of purchases of ~~the~~a same registered product combination by users who searched for the registered product combination.

23. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

registering a product combination supplied by a person who has bought the product combination via a network;

searching for the registered product combination based on inquiries by users; and

rewarding the person, based on a number of purchases of ~~the~~a same registered product combination by users who searched for the registered product combination.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

registering means for registering a product combination supplied by a person who has bought the product combination via a network;

searching means for searching the registered product combination based on inquiries by users; and

rewarding means for rewarding the person, based on a number of purchases of ~~the~~ a same registered product combination by users who searched for the registered product combination.